OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgmt. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Tech. Serv. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

TO : The Associate Director

DATE: 7/15/77

FROM : Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

PURPOSE:

To advise of the status of negotiations regarding a bullet fragment submitted to the FBI by Richard Harold Lester in the matter of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

DETAILS:

On 7/14/77, Mr. Robert L. Keuch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, advised SA Danny O. Coulson, Legal Counsel Division, that he had discussed the matter of the examination of the bullet fragment recovered by Richard Harold Lester with Mr. George R. Blakey, Staff Director of captioned Committee. Mr. Blakey advised that he felt that the FBI should conduct the examination of the bullet and make the comparison with the known sample from the rifle of Lee Harvey Oswald. He requested the examination be conducted in the presence of a representative of the Archives of the United States in order to insure chain of custody of the test sample. He further requested that the examination be conducted by an FBI examiner who was not involved in the examination of the original John F. Kennedy material following the assassination. Mr. Blakey also requested that Inspector William Lee Reed of the Director's Office supervise this examination. Mr. Blakey explained that since he knows Mr. Reed personally, he can assure his staff that a personal acquaintance of his will be involved in this examination and assure them that the examination is done properly.

cc Lodge

REC-72 62-117270-260

23 AUG 24 1977

1 - Mr. Reed
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Kelleher
1 - Mr. Fehl
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Lawn
2 - Mr. Daly
1 - Mr. Coulson

SEE ADDENDUM, SID, PAGE 3

XEROX

SEP 2 1977

LEGAL COUNSEL

Legal Counsel to Associate Director Memorandum
Re: House Select Committee on Assassinations

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Laboratory Division offer its observations regarding this examination.

APPROVED:

Director
Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.

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LABORATORY DIVISION ADDENDUM FDS:bsm 7/18/77

Mr. Robert A. Frazier, the Firearms Examiner, who conducted the original examinations in the President Kennedy assassination has since retired. In view of this fact, a different examiner would be assigned to any new examinations.

However, the Laboratory Division objects to Mr. Blakey's request that the firearms examiner be supervised to assure that the examination is done properly. To accept this condition would impugn the integrity of this Bureau and question the validity and trustworthiness of our Laboratory examination.

APPROVED:

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ADDENDUM SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION (SID) JCL:sas 7/19/77

The SID concurs with the objections set forth by the Laboratory Division.

The critical issue continues to be whether the FBI should acquiesce to the conditions set down by the HSCA, which conditions question the integrity of the FBI in general and the competence and professionalism of personnel of the Laboratory Division in particular.

The criminal jurisdiction of the Bureau in this matter is neither negotiable nor arbitrable and we should not, therefore, compromise our position in fulfilling these investigative responsibilities.

pm JM

I talked with Mr. Keuch and told him that matter was being closely supervised by me with whom Mr. Beakey is also familiar. Mr. Keuch contacted Mr. Beakey who concurred in our proposed procedure of allowing inching req. to be present to preserve chain of evidence of test bullet from Oswald rifle. JM